

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

**Method for operating fluorescent lamps and ballast**

The invention relates to an operating method for fluorescent lamps and a corresponding ballast, in which the brightness of the fluorescent lamps (LP) is set to the desired value by varying the switching frequency of the inverter switches (T1, T2). In order to prevent oscillations between different operating states in a critical dimming range, the power consumption of the fluorescent lamps (LP) is stabilized according to the invention by means of an additional control loop.

Figure 1